

Lithuanian girs dancing traditional folk dances

would continue to remain in the "Ateitis" Federation, they could better achieve their particular goals by working more independently. They organized several branches of which the most important were "Giedra" and "Birutė." "Giedra" was divided into the following sections: civic affairs, pedagogy, social welfare, research on family life, applied art. "Birutė" took for its special field: spiritual development, temperance, social service. Medical and Law students had their own groups. A general Council coordinated the various branches. The "Ateitininkės" actively participated in all the Catholic women's organizations of the country.

THE "PAVASARININKĖS"

The Lithuanian Catholic Youth Society "Pavasaris" (Spring) was formed in 1911. "Ateitis" was composed of young Catholics attending highschools and universities. "Pavasaris" was organized to include the remaining young Catholics, and very particularly country boys and girls. It was a mixed organization to begin with, but from 1932, the girls had their own completely independent association, with a membership of 50,000. It was an extremely active society. During a ten year period they arranged over 30,000 lectures on ideological, educational, cultural and other subjects. They organized 1076 courses in domestic science; 764 dialogues; 76 excursions abroad; 12,573 temperance weeks; visited 22,634 sick people; prepared Christmas Eve and Easter Day meals for 9,739 indigent people and distrubuted $1565.50 to the needy. They published two magazines: "Sesučių Šnekos" (Sisters' Chats) and "Liepsnos" (Flames). They periodically organized exhibits of home arts and also sport festivals. This organization had a great deal of influence on country youth.

THE WORKING WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF SAINT ZITA

This association, made up chiefly of domestic workers, was formed in 1907. Its purpose was to further the spiritual and material welfare of its members. The Society owned a large building for its various purposes, a hospital, and rest and vacation homes for its members. It operated a hotel with a large public hall, restaurants, workshops and stores. The Communist régime suppressed the association and confiscated its very considerable property, acquired over long years with the hard-earned money of servant girls.